

From
Plymouth DNR Service Center
"The Woodchucks"



To
Sheboygan County Conservation Association
January 18, 2017

From the Front Line: Cheryl

Free Fishing Weekend January 21-22, 2017. Residents and nonresidents of all ages can fish without a fishing license (and trout stamps) over these two days. However, all other fishing regulations (length limits, bag limits, seasons, etc.) apply.



From Fish Management: Travis, Tanya, Danyelle

- **Early trout season:** The early catch-and-release trout season opened at 5 a.m. on January 7 and runs until midnight May 5.
 - Anglers are not required to use barbless hooks. Artificial lures and flies are still required.
 - Wisconsin's official [maps of classified trout streams](#) has been updated and contains 41 more streams that have been classified as trout waters since 2014. Most of those 292 miles are found in west central and southern Wisconsin counties and will be open for the early season.
 - New online maps and interactive maps will make all of the trout waters easier to find and provide other information to increase anglers' success.

- **Free Fishing Weekend:** January 21–22, 2017
 - Winter has been fickle! While the recent warm-up and rain have compromised ice safety in some parts of the state, opportunities to bring your friends out for a day of free fishing are still out there. Be aware of the "honeycomb effect," which occurs after freeze-thaw-freeze conditions, and weakens ice. Stay safely on shore and cast into open water if your line can reach it.

- Fish *almost* anywhere in Wisconsin without a license or trout stamp on Free Fishing Weekend. Most waters of the state are included, **except for spring trout ponds**. All other inland waters and Wisconsin's side of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River are open for you to test your skills and try your luck. Remember, all usual regulations and seasonal restrictions are in force. Please exercise caution before heading out on the ice.
- Visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/AnglerEducation/FreeFishingWeekend.html> for more information on events

- Fisheries is currently work planning for the next biennium. This is the process where we propose surveys, habitat work, etc, for the next two fiscal years.
- For more Fisheries hot topics visit: dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/
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From Law Enforcement: Joe, Mike

- **Nothing to report**

From Wildlife Management: Dan, Natanya, Ed, Andrew

CWD CDAC Meetings

CDAC Upcoming Meetings in March to review harvest numbers and make recommendations for upcoming season

- Tentative meeting dates:
 - March: 13-16 and 20-23
 - April: 17-20
- Sheboygan Marsh Drawdown
- Meet with DU engineer to hear proposals for dam renovations/alterations
- Projects written to raze old farmstead buildings on Sheboygan Marsh and Nichols Creek
- Gearing up to write prescribed burn plans and habitat projects for Spring/Summer 2017
- Reports of dead owls near Two Rivers, keep an eye out for dead or injured animals due to ice conditions. Owls may be starving because of ice sheet on top of snow

Natanya on maternity leave until spring. Point of contact will be Andrew Krsnich or Ed Eilert for any wildlife/habitat issues on public land

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